



Photo submitted

**US Senator Ken Salazar (D-CO)** met with representatives of the Colorado Association of Wheat Growers (CAWG) in Washington DC on November 3. Pictured are (l-r) CAWG President Randy Wilks of Burlington, Senator Ken Salazar and CAWG Vice President Dusty Tallman of Cheyenne Wells.



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**US Representative Marilyn Musgrave (R-3<sup>rd</sup>)** met with representatives of the Colorado Association of Wheat Growers (CAWG) in Washington DC on November 2. Pictured are (l-r) CAWG President Randy Wilks of Burlington, Representative Marilyn Musgrave and CAWG Vice President Dusty Tallman of Cheyenne Wells.

## CAWG meets with Colorado Congressional Delegation

Three representatives of the Colorado Association of Wheat Growers (CAWG) met with the nine members of the Colorado Congressional Delegation in Washington, D.C. on November 2-3, to discuss crop disaster assistance, emergency farm energy assistance and budget reconciliation.

CAWG requested support for emergency crop disaster assistance for losses to agricultural commodities in 2005 due to damaging weather or related conditions. CAWG estimates

the loss to Colorado winter wheat producers in 2005 at approximately \$61.1 - \$68.8 million.

CAWG also requested support for emergency farm energy assistance to offset staggering increases in fuel and fertilizer costs through an additional direct payment (\$0.52 per bu. for wheat x 85% of base acreage x direct payment yield). According to Colorado State University, direct/indirect energy costs for fuel and fertilizer for production of

dryland winter wheat have increased by 40 percent from 2003 to 2005, or an increase of \$22.56 per acre.

CAWG recommended that spending reductions for agricultural programs in budget reconciliation be minimized since agriculture is already paying more than its share of damage for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in the form of higher energy and fertilizer prices.

"Our message was well received by the Colorado Congressional

Delegation," said CAWG President Randy Wilks from Burlington. "Our fifth below average wheat crop in six years and higher energy costs that we can't pass on results in numbers that don't add up. If we can't show positive cash flow, it will be more difficult to renew operating loans."

CAWG is a voluntary membership association that lobbies on behalf of wheat growers at the state and national levels of government and provides special programs and benefits to dues paying members.